

Radiko

(Finland)

Radiko is thought to have derived its name from an island where the dance originated. A huge rock is supposed to dominate the island, behind which the natives are said to have followed the custom of concealing the "old maids" of the vicinity whenever eligible young men arrived in their midst. However, there is little apparent significance between the figures of this folk dance and the custom with which it was originally associated except that it is danced vigorously and with a sense of humor and the fact that, according to some authorities, the steps themselves are suggestive of the idea of leading conniving spinsters to their place of concealment.

Of real interest to an American folklorist is the fact that Radiko is very similar in step pattern to various versions of the polka with its combination of polka steps in social dance position with walking and sliding steps as analyzed. These same figures appear in the American polka presented in "Folk Dances of the United States and Mexico." Radiko is a two-part form with the first part identical throughout and the second part varied only with respect to the direction in which the steps analyzed are danced.

Formation: Any number of couples in a double circle, partners facing in closed social dance position, man's back to center of circle, with joined hands extended sideward in a CCW direction.

Part I

- A
1-8 Beginning with a hop on inside feet (M R, W L), couples turn CW while progressing CCW around the large circle with 8 polka steps.
- B 9-12 In open social dance position, outside hands joined and extended in a CCW direction, couples begin on outside feet (M L, W R) and continue to progress CCW around the large circle with 7 walking steps forward. Hold on last count.
- 13-16 Partners face each other to assume closed social dance position and, beginning on inside feet (M R, W L), dance 8 sliding steps in a CW direction, keeping outside feet free on last slide step.
- 17-24 Repeat meas 9-16.

Part II

- A 1-8 Repeat A as analyzed in Figure I.
- B 9-16 Repeat step pattern as analyzed for B of Figure I except that dancers walk in twd center of the circle and slide back to positions in the circle.
- 17-24 Repeat meas 9-16, Part II - B.

Part III

- A 1-8 Repeat A as analyzed in Figure I.
- B 9-16 Repeat step pattern as analyzed for B of Figure I except that each couple may walk in any direction about the room and slide to any new position in the larger scale.
- 17-24 Repeat meas 9-16, Part III.

Repeat entire dance as many times as desired.